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Regarding Real Devils.

(Joseph Fitzpatrick in the New York "Call.")

If the Devil is aught but a Mythical One,
Hatched out by our Rulers with cunning intent;
He has not a Training School under the sun
That can match our best Rogues in their natural bent.

If the Devil a sense of grim humor possesses,
Or desires original jokes for his realm;
He should scan how our crazy old world progresses,
And the antics of those with their hands on the helm.

How our blue-blooded Sheep from the Goats are divided,
Might amuse the Luciferous Wag from below;
How our parasites gobble what toil has provided,
While the goats get the dregs of Society's show.

If you've got enough 'mong the sheep you are classed
Though the Devil himself could not match your transgressions,
But if poor 'mid the hard-toiling goats you are massed,
To fight like a bulldog for earthly possessions.

Our politics surely would keep Satan smiling,
With government framed up to plunder the weak,
Wealthy rogues building churches and clerics beguiling,
With dollars raked off from the needs of the meek.

"The meek shall inherit the earth," cries the man
Who spouts when old Moneybags loosens his string;
"Toll here like a slave to finance our plan,
And in Heaven on harps made of gold you may sing."

But "the meek shall inherit the earth" is a bull
Which beats the worst canard Old Nick ever threw,
For if Mr. Meek's corpse is not paid for in full,
He'll inherit the earth in a plain "six-by-two."

When we list to some solemn-faced pedant descending
That Satan's the cause of our troubles up here,
We feel that he lies in his salaried ranting,
For the devils we know are the devils to fear.

The devils who straddle the necks of the toilers
And wait for the needs of their families to grow;
Parasitical hypocrites, treacherous spoilers,
Who steal what we reap, but loaf while we sow.

So give us Old Nick with his horns, hoofs and blazes,
An honest old devil a child can detect;
For the fakir whose oily collegiate phrases,
And orthodox loafing we've ceased to respect.

But the workers are waking and squirming and turning,
Our idlers at last have a leg to fear,
For the goats who have slaved for the sheep are discerning
That the devils to watch are the devils up here.

The Passing Show.

Discontent is the urge onward - the urge towards progress.

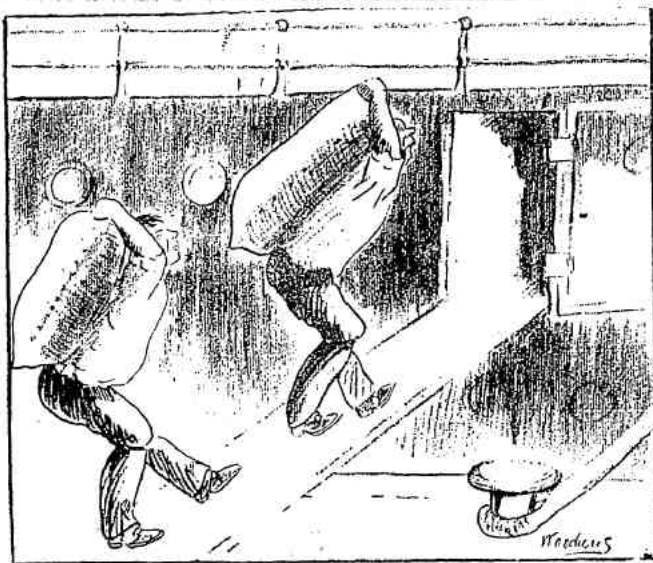
Christian brethren are still praying
"Thy Kingdom come on earth," even while they use poisonous gas upon each other.

The desire for a broader, more capacious life is urging the workers on to smash the narrow confines of the wages system.

The feudal lords did not like the capitalists rising and confiscating the landed property. The capitalists do not like the workers rising and confiscating the machinery of production and distribution.

Speaking of the stoppage of several hundred Irishmen of military age from emigrating to the United States, the London "Herald" remarks:

"The bosses of Britain and their parasites made emigration from the 'Sister Ireland' inevitable for generations. Their scribbles gloated over it. To-day there is an effort to stop it, not through any interest in Irish reconstruction, but in the hope that would-be emigrants may be forced to 'the front.' If the Prussians try similar tactics in Belgium what a roar of



Heard on the Wharf.

"Hey, Bill, 'twould be terrible if the Germans Captured this country and robbed us of our freedom."

pious rage will go up from ye old British lion!"

Last issue of "The Bulletin" had a full-page cartoon depicting the Labor Samson pulling the temple of industry down upon himself. The artist, however, neglected to picture the horde of parasites on the roof whom the ancient Hebrew strong man destroyed. Samson sacrificed his own life, but he freed the body politic of a swarm of blood suckers when he died.

A favorite character on the stage is the old farmer who comes to town and lets some smooth confidence man sell him a gold brick, but usually, 99 per cent. of those who laugh at him are letting the old party politicians sell them all kinds of gold bricks.—"Appeal to Reason."

We are frequently told "You must have brains to get on in life." Is this so? There was a time when a good education and average brains would generally insure a man a comfortable living and a modest competence in old age. It is not so to-day. To-day he must have something more than a good education and brains—he must have cunning and a disposition and conscience to apply it. There is a deal of difference between cunning and brains.

J. C. Watson, ex-Prime Minister, has a roving commission to find land for returning wounded heroes to settle on. So far, J. C. appears to find little land that is not high-priced.

There is land for wounded heroes
Where the tenant farmer squirms,
Cut in miniature farm lots,
Marked "For sale on easy terms."

Capitalist justice is over on the side of the biggest banking account. Mr. Justice Higgins is waxing very indignant at Melbourne wharves for daring to interfere with the export of foodstuffs, and threatens to withdraw the privileges showered on them by arbitration. The wharves don't seem to tremble very visibly.

Thousands of American women are appealing to President Wilson to end the war.—News item.

The ammunition makers are appealing to him to keep it going. We know which appeal will carry most weight.

"A miner does not expect to enjoy his life for many years, for the accident rate is very high. In 1913, 28 men were killed outright, and 900 men were in receipt of accident pay from their unions. The industrial diseases are the cause of the heaviest casualty lists. The damp and the dust bring on pneumonia and miners' phthisis, and the fracture fumes are deadly poison to the human system."—J. J. O'Rielly, Barrier Miners' delegate.

February 10 marked the triumph of Prussian militarism over British freedom. On February 10 the Compulsory Service

Act came into force, and all unattested unmarried men were deemed to have enlisted as from March 2. They will be compelled to take their places with Lord Derby's recruits who have already been called up.

The dum-dum and the explosive bullet have been barred by international law, and foes are no longer permitted to poison wells and streams, but turpentine shells and poisonous gases are quite in order. Before these most fiendish inventions can be barred the international murderers will have to hold a meeting and bind each other down to be less civilised.

A leading English newspaper has been complaining bitterly that British toy makers cannot make a wooden "Noah's Ark" to rival similar toys made by German makers, and that the home-made animals do not please the children. Perhaps the nation has been so busy building Dreadnoughts that it has forgotten the art of toy making. Destruction rather than instruction appears to be the national motto nowadays.

The Bishop of London recently invited the metropolitan clergy to assemble together to "wait upon God and to ask what is the meaning of the awful chastisement which has happened to the world, and especially where our nation is wrong."

All explanations the Bishop and his clergy have been giving of the "religious significance of the war" during the last fifteen months seem to have been unsatisfactory, hence the deputation to "wait on God." The Bishop made a mistake in explaining so much before he got a revelation. He should have waited upon God fifteen months ago, and announced the result of the interview subsequently.

The Governor-General has announced his intention of giving up attending race meetings while the war is on. We must all make some sacrifice, you know. Our religious editor intends to refrain from attending church.

A publication called "Business" suggests that "the nation could very well spare ecclesiastical puppets, as well as ministers of all other denominations. Tens of thousands of these useless people could be drilled and trained to fight the enemy in France, or in the Balkans. This is no time for sentiment but for action, if Britain is to be saved from the yoke of Germany. Healthy, strong men, whether saints or sinners, must do their duty in the firing line." Other papers suggest that if religious ministrations are absolutely necessary, "the eligible clergy might be liberated by putting women in the pulpit. If women can serve as bus conductors, letter carriers, clerks, ammunition workers, etc., they could surely manage a sermon as well as the average parson does." All of which indicates a remarkable change in the general outlook since the war happened.

Reuter's special correspondent, describing the "ferocious fighting" on the Isonzo, says: "Men are often found bitten, but hand grenades are the favorite weapons." "Blessed are the meek."

"Pessimist clubs are now in great vogue in London," says a society paper. No wonder. Capitalism must lead to pessimism. The workers are doomed to slavery under it, and the moderately well-off are always living in fear of a fall.

The growing anti-German feeling in literature has provoked sarcastic remarks from some literary men. In a recent issue of the London "Daily News," Mr. Phillip Guedella says: "If anyone were now so bold as to issue a life of Luther, he would probably have to call it 'No. 1 in the Master Hum Series.'"

The death of Dr. Booker Washington, the noted negro preacher, recalls the enormous prejudice that exists against colored men in America. White Christians will not worship in the same church with their colored brethren. Yet Jesus and the twelve apostles were not white men.

London "Times" says the dons at Oxford University "are an honest and unsuspicious race." They may be, but we don't forget that Oxford University expelled the poet Shelley, and conferred an honorary degree on the late General Booth.

Mr. N. Kato, a converted Japanese, speaking at a London Brotherhood meeting said: "The great war has had a retarding effect on the work of Christian missionaries in Japan; the people look and see the mighty Christian nations in bloody warfare, and they say it proves the impotence of Christianity." The Jap must be more logical than the European credits him with being.

A new book bears the title, "The Devil's Motor." Poor old Nick! Fancy becoming a "motor hog."

After vigorously calling upon the soldiers in camp to come down and touch Socialists and members of the I.W.W., Sydney newspaper editors were surprised and shocked when the soldiers came down and attacked, not the revolutionists, but newspaper offices and other business places. They vowed the soldiers must have been drunk or full of Socialism to make such a mistake.

"Ross's Magazine" comes to hand late this month, the reason being that the postal authorities down south gazed upon it for a fortnight before they would permit it to circulate. They thought it was blasphemous somewhere, but failed to find the exact spot. Of course, none of the officials know what blasphemy is.

In England great attention is being given to motor machines for farm work. How the British farmer is commencing to save money and to make good the shortage of labor by adopting mechanical haulage on farms is told in the following report in an English paper:—"Apart altogether from the fact that it is nearly always possible to plough and cultivate as well as harvest a given area of land in much less time by mechanical means than by using horses, the work can be done much more cheaply. After all, that is the vital point, though climatic conditions frequently make it desirable that as much work as possible should be got through when the weather is favorable. Before the war, when labor and other charges may be regarded as having been normal, practical experience showed that ploughing costs ranged from 8s. to 10s. per acre, when horses were used. By means of mechanical traction, upon which the initial outlay compared very favorably with the capital value of the horses necessary to do similar work it was possible to reduce these costs to from 8s. 6d. to 5s. per acre. Taking an outfit of, say, 45-50 h.p., hauling a six or seven-furrow plough, one and a half to one and three-quarter acres per hour can be ploughed, according to the nature of the soil, on a fuel consumption of about three gallons per acre. With a tractor of this calibre it should be possible to haul three or four reaping machines, clearing up to five or even six acres per hour, on a fuel consumption of a gallon per acre."

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In all good things the attempt is laudable, the effect contingent.—Apuleius.

Six O'Clock.

War Precaution Proclamation.

Acting under the powers conferred by the War Precautions Act, the Minister for Defence, Senator Pearce, has ordered all hotels within the Sydney Metropolitan area, and those within five miles of any military camp in N.S. Wales, to close at six p.m. each day until further notice.

The proclamation sets out that the Minister holds the opinion that "the sale of liquor after six o'clock is prejudicial to, and endangers the health, training, discipline, and administration of the military forces."

The Minister has apparently arrived at this opinion after considering the events of Monday, February 14, when some thousands of soldiers from Liverpool and Casula camps practically mutinied, defied their officers, and proceeded to sack Liverpool and Sydney.

In a comment on the conduct of the soldiers, Senator Pearce is reported as saying: "I cannot help believing that enemy influences and enemy gold have been at work at Liverpool."

Seeing that the soldiers, whenever they riot and smash windows, generally do so in a frenzy of patriotism, it is difficult to see how Senator Pearce arrives at the conclusion that German influence and money have been at work amongst them. The Germans would scarcely be foolish enough to fill the soldiers with an intoxicant, and incite them to riot, knowing as they do that their own people would be the first to be attacked.

Senator Pearce's action in closing the hotels at six o'clock is a peculiar way of counteracting the supposed German influence. He must admit that German influence, if exerted at all, would be unlikely to be exerted after six o'clock upon some thousands of patriotic young men who are thirsting for German gore and bent on smashing Germans' windows.

As Minister for Defence, Senator Pearce must know of what has been done to incite the soldiers to riot and bloodshed. He must know how Mr. Fitzgerald, Sir Joseph Carruthers, and other M's.L.C. invited the soldiers to come down from the camps and boot certain citizens off the face of the earth. He must know how papers like the "Sunday Times," the "Mirror," and even the "S.M. Herald," have encouraged the soldiers to run amok, and knowing this, how foolish is his attempt to blame either the Germans or drink for what has happened recently.

Every encouragement has been given the soldiers to riot and attack, not only German residents, but Socialists and others who could not be carried away by jingoistic claptrap and hysteria, but who pleaded for fairness and justice to all.

If the soldiers did what they were not expected or wanted to do, the authorities and the press should blame themselves. If the press calls for a pogrom against the enemies of the plutocracy, it cannot complain if the boys from the camps make the mis-

take of going for some of their real enemies in the newspaper offices.

In any attempt to find out the cause of the soldiers' mutiny, due weight must be given to the baleful influence of certain politicians and newspapers. Also, it should not be forgotten that the soldiers have grievances. Out of their small pay they have been compelled to pay railway fares wherever they go, while politicians and hired recruiters are granted free passes. At their club they are charged full prices for little comforts which have been donated free of cost for their use, while at their camps inquiries set on foot by Mr. Orchard, M.P. disclosed many grievances.

Little Billy in Canada.

Mr. W. M. Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia, has arrived in Canada, and has been squeaking in his other voice. Before he left this happy hunting ground for political crooks, he used to tell the devout that compulsion would never be resorted to to compel men to fight for this country. A country, he said, which had to compel men to fight for it wasn't worth fighting for. In Canada, however, he urges compulsory methods. In an address on "Preparedness," he is reported to have said that "compulsion was essential to the security of any free people who desired to retain their liberty." We expected this of Little Billy, and consequently, are not in the least surprised. When he reaches England, we shall not be any more surprised to learn that he and the great Liverpool slum owner, Lord Derby, have joined forces to preserve their particular brand of liberty.

I.W.W. and International Socialists.

Thus "The Mirror," a Sydney publication, which, in upholding the empire incidentally adds to the gaiety of nations and relieves the monotony of existence:

"We trust that the Minister for Defence will now deal ruthlessly with those tools of the Huns, the members of the I.W.W., the International Socialists, and other bodies who, we are convinced, have been the sinister elements behind some at least of the recent industrial and military disturbances."

"A large proportion of the International Socialists are foreigners; many of whom are Germans and Austrians. They openly oppose the war; they are anti-British, even if they recognise no other country. . . . But these men are openly preaching sedition in public places, sowing discord amongst the workers, and creating unrest amongst the soldiers. They are perhaps more dangerous than the men in the German ranks on the battlefield. For their work is more insidious. It is they who bring discredit on the Labor movement; it is they who must, in Mr. Hughes expressive phrase, be cast out of the body politic like devils out of swine."

The "Mirror" evidently doesn't know how hard it would be to cast devils out of swine or it wouldn't ask the Minister to imitate that feat. People no longer believe in the bunk about swine being the hostages of devils. They know that the modern newspaper editor is more full of devils than a pig is full of squeals, and that the devils in a daily paper editor are worse than any described in "Paradise Lost."

There are some good newspaper editors, but they are above the average in their profession. The average editor is a mental prostitute who sells himself to slum owners, food brigands, child sweaters, white slavers, and all the other scum that comes to the top of putrid capitalism.

The average editor will readily publish information useful to the enemy his country is at war with, and then throw out his chest and demand ruthless dealing for Socialists. The "Mirror" knows this for it has felt the heavy hand of the censor ripping the thin veneer of bogus patriotism off it.

Some Opinions of Socialism.

"Socialism is against the home," says the down-and-outer whose "home" is No. 9 Fig Tree, Sydney Domain.

"Socialism is against the family," says the man who deserted his wife and children owing to his inability to support them.

"Socialism wants free love," says the prosperous city gent as he gives the housemaid the glad eye.

"Socialism means Anarchy," says the brainy individual whose inspiration is drawn from the Daily Prevaricator.

"Socialism is against religion," says the man who never goes to church because he hasn't a decent suit to go in.

"Socialism is against my country," says the patriotic fellow whose only real estate is lost when he wipes his feet on the door mat.

MONEY.

(By A. Carozzi and Ernest Hanks.)

In the issue of the "Labor Call," Jan. 20, a correspondent, "H. B. Wookey," has a letter commenting upon "Hotwind's" remarks upon the question of money. Numbering off the statements contained therein, we find that three are correct, viz.:

1. "Paper money also represents labor, time and interest, rent and profit to the extent of its face value. But the value lies in the wealth which the paper represents, whether it be gold or securities."

2. "Paper money represents value of wealth, and it would be false to count paper money as wealth, as these values exist elsewhere."

3. "The fault lies, not in the monetary system, but in the capitalistic system, etc."

Regarding "H. B. Wookey's" other statements, we will examine them in numerical order.

1. "Hotwind's" assertion re "time necessary to perform a certain amount of work gives that work its value" is true under the capitalist system and has been recognised by economists from William Petty to Karl Marx in some form.

In industry to-day, the constant effort to promote efficiency and to introduce labor-saving machinery proves that in cold reality capitalists themselves recognise this, the "Professors of Political Economy" notwithstanding.

2. "Before a man can work he must guarantee profits to pay interest and rent, therefore, the cost must be added to time labor to measure the value of commodities." H. B. Wookey nearly hit the mark in that statement, boiled down, even with commodities, selling at their value, i.e., exchanging with equal amount of socially necessary labor time embodied in gold, profit, rent and interest can be made.

For example, take boots: suppose the product for a day working eight hours, be eight pairs of boots (working with the average amount of efficiency and with up-to-date machinery). We have now one pair of boots, for one hour's labor. Suppose, for convenience, that the labor socially necessary to produce a sovereign be one hour. We have now one pair of boots, equals one hour of labor, and one sovereign equals one hour of labor or one pair of boots; as eight pairs of boots were produced, if they sell at their value, they will realize eight sovereigns.

Suppose the wages fixed by arbitration, or anything else, be one sovereign, then seven sovereigns will be left to go as rent, interest and profit, notwithstanding that boots have sold at their value. And this is what actually occurs, taking right throughout society.

According to Mr. Knibbs's statistics, out of every three articles produced in Australia, two go as surplus, i.e., rent, interest and profit, and one as wages or the laborer's share. Rent and interest are not additions to the value of commodities. Rent and interest are part of the laborer's product that he has been robbed of under the capitalist system.

3. "Money differs from commodities in that its value is fixed."

This statement, if it were to receive justice, would require an article in itself. For those interested this illusion has been settled for all time by Marx.

See the following pages of "Capital," Vol. I, Swan Soncheinson edition, pages 71-73, 92-93-98 and 678, or, better still, read chapter III., right throughout where Marx deals with this fallacy.

In the "Critique of Political Economy," Kerr edition, page 89, Marx says:—

"Owing to the fact that money, when serving as the standard of price, appears under the same reckoning names as do the commodities, and that, therefore, the sum of £3/17/10½ may signify, on the one hand, an ounce weight of gold, and on the other hand, the value of a ton of iron. This reckoning name of money has been called its mint price. Hence, there sprang up the extraordinary notion that the value of gold is estimated in its own material, and that, in contradistinction to all other commodities, its price is fixed by the State."

It was erroneously thought that the giving of reckoning names to definite weights of gold is the same thing as fixing the value of those weights.

In so far as gold serves as one of the elements in determining price, i.e., where it performs the function of money of account, it not only has no fixed price, but has no price whatever. In order to have a price, i.e., in order to express itself in a specific commodity as a universal equivalent, that other commodity would have to play the same exclusive role in the process of circulation as gold. But two commodities excluding all other commodities mutually exchange for each other. Therefore, wherever gold and silver have by law been made to perform side by side, the function of money or of a measure of value, it has always been tried, but in vain, to treat them as one and the same material. To assume that there is an invariable ratio between the

quantities of gold and silver in which a given quantity of labor time is incorporated, is to assume, in fact, that gold and silver are of one and the same material, and that a given mass of the less valuable metal, silver, is a constant fraction of a given mass of gold. From the reign of Edward III. to the time of George II., the history of money in England consists of one "long series of perturbations caused by the clashing of the legally fixed ratio between the values of gold and silver, with the fluctuations in their real values. At one time gold was too high, at another, silver. The metal that for the time being was estimated below its value was withdrawn from circulation, melted and exported."

4. "This value may be 100 per cent. labor, or it may be 2 per cent. labor and 98 per cent. interest or profit. It may cost one minute of labor time or 20 years, it cannot matter as the value is fixed."

This is the most ridiculous statement of the bunch.

If the production of gold came to such a pass as, say, one sovereign, taking 20 years of socially necessary labor to produce, then it would have a value of more than any diamond, and mankind would certainly have to use something else as money, or, again, if it took one minute to produce one sovereign then it would be about as valuable as the blue metal on the roads. No! the value of gold is not fixed, and it's because gold is getting cheaper that you have to give more of it for most commodities than ten years ago.

The application of science, the discovery of more productive mines, e.g., the South African, and the cyaniding process have tended to reduce the value of gold.

This fact is one of the causes (there are other causes which do not concern us here) of the present high cost of living.

5. "When one has gold money, he has both wealth and money—wealth in the metal and money in its fixed value. When one has paper money he has money only."

Here, again, we must disagree with our economist.

When one has bank notes one has not money at all; he has only a promise to pay money on demand. Take a bank note and read the statement thereon. Take notice of "Promise to pay on demand." A definition of money tokens and notes will clarify matters better.

Money is the commodity used as the standard for other commodities to express their value in.

It has been various commodities at different times—cattle, hides, wheat, iron, etc. To-day, in most countries it is gold. When you express the price of any commodity you have in effect stated, "It has cost as much average social labor to produce this article as it has taken to produce that amount of gold" (irregularities excepted).

Tokens are coins of inferior metal used to take the places of money proper. For example, one shilling takes the place of 1/20 of a sovereign gold coin, and a penny of a 1/240 of a sovereign gold coin.

A note is a promise to pay in money proper, and is no more "money" than a ticket for a theatre is "money."

Currency is the general term which will cover all of these definitions.

6. "Banker" says that money is not wealth; money is credit—a claim on wealth in other people's hands."

"Banker," in spite of his "nom de plume," hasn't the least idea of the evolution of money, or he would know that money is wealth, and not only is money wealth, but the most desirable form of wealth to hold, for "money will always buy commodities, but commodities will not always buy money" (Marx), has been found out by many a capitalist with a well-stocked warehouse, but no buyers. However, in the tenth statement of Wookey we will deal more fully with "Banker's" fallacy, and so kill two birds with one stone.

7. "The owners of value have a claim against society, whether that claim exists in property, securities or commodities."

If "the owners of value" possess the value they own, what claim have they on society? H. B. Wookey is floundering in the confusion he has created, as his laughable exposition of value in No. 8 shows.

8. "Value being an imaginary thing." No Gods and little fishes! In paragraph 5 we were told that "value was a fixed amount of time: labour, plus interest, rent and profit." Now we are told that value is an imaginary thing. Hence we derive from this, logically, that value being imaginary, rent, profit and interest are also imaginary. Why bother about interest on national debts, rent, etc.?

No! Value is not a "fixed amount of time labour, plus interest, rent and profit." Neither is it "imaginary."

Value is the amount of socially-necessary labour time embodied in commodities.

9. "And money being a certain sum of value." That is according to Mr. Wookey's last statement, a certain sum of an imaginary thing. Or shall we take his first defini-

The Rebel's Library.

Omar Khayyam.

THE VOLTAIRE OF PERSIA.

"The appearance in a threepenny edition of Fitzgerald's 'Omar Khayyam,' makes one regret the days when mischievous books were burned by the common hangman."—"Daily Mail" (London).

The above was the welcome given by the "Daily Mail" to a people's edition of Omar Khayyam's wonderful poem "The Rubaiyat."

Omar, the poet and scientist, was born in the latter half of the eleventh century, about the time of the Norman conquest of Great Britain. A great scholar, he was one of the eight men who reformed the Calendar. He was the author of astronomical tables, treatises on cube roots, algebra, and of various poems.

The verses of "The Rubaiyat" consist simply of quatrains, little epigrams of four lines each. They are characteristic of Persian poetry, the subject of which is usually praise of wine and women, with speculations on religion.

Omar was an inveterate iconoclast, and the way he enforces his rationalism is by praising wine, for he was brought up as a Mohammedan, to whom wine was a forbidden thing. Wine, with Omar, is typical of the enjoyment of the world, a beverage for unconventional Bohemians.

The writings of Omar remained forgotten for centuries, banned by the clergy and shunned by publishers. They ultimately fell into the hands of Edward Fitzgerald, a sceptic and a poet, who made Omar known to all parts of the world as one of the greatest of ancient poets.

Omar's poem savors of the dreamy and languorous East, whence come tales of

beautiful hours and scented gardens, witching music and graceful dances, the Orient of luxuriance and barbaric splendor. As he sings to us, the Persia of bygone days is recalled—the caravan track, the dreamy tinkling bells of the loaded camels moving slowly over the dusty roads of the deserted plains, the fierce warriors armed to the teeth, the manners and customs of the towns, and the religious speculations of the people.

Tennyson said that nothing else of the kind had been done "so divinely well." Yet, for some time, the book made its way slowly. It had to fight many allies of entrenched superstition, but it eventually triumphed and became the most popular book in Britain, where it made a profound impression.

The irresistible charm of "The Rubaiyat" is that it splendidly voices the scepticism that is growing in all thoughtful minds, and makes magnificent music of it. In it Omar is revealed as the Voltaire of ancient Persia. There is no doubt about his freethought. He fails to find any Providence but Destiny or any evidence of any other world than this, which he invokes us to make the best of.

"And that inverted bowl they call the sky,
Whereunder crawling, cooped, we live and die,
Lift not your hands to it for help, for it
As impotently rolls as you and I."

The poetry of Omar, like that of Lucretius, is full of argument on destiny and man's conception of the Deity. Of man's contradictory conception of a supreme being he says:

"What, out of senseless nothing to provoke
A conscious Something, to resent the yoke
Of unpermitted pleasure, under pain
Of everlasting penalties if broke?"

"What! from His helpless creatures be repaid
Pure gold for what He lent us, dross alloyed—
Sue for a debt we never did contract,
And cannot answer—oh, the sorry trade!"

A fierce revolutionary ardour lurks in these lines:

"Ah, Love, could you and I with him conspire
To grasp this sorry scheme of things entire;
Would we not shatter it to bits—and then
Remould it nearer to the heart's desire?"

On theological lies and fairy tales he makes a candid attack:

"Oh, threats of Hell and hopes of Paradise!
One thing at least is certain—this life flies.
One thing is certain, and the rest is lies,
The flower that once has blown forever dies."

He foreshadowed in lines of magic sweetness the modern conception of the indestructibility of matter:

"I sometimes think that never blows so red
The rose as where some buried Caesar bled;
That every Hyacinth the Garden wears
Dropt in its lap from some once lovely Head."

"And this delightful Herb whose tender Green
Fledges the River's Lip on which we lean—
Ah, lean upon it lightly! for who knows
From what once lovely Lip it springs unseen!"

Of the world's pomps and vanities Omar, like Byron, had a supreme contempt. Byron longed for a desert for a resting place with some fair spirit for his minister, and Omar says:

"With me along some Strip of Herbage
straw
That just divides the desert from the sown,
Where name of Slave and Sultan scarce is known,
And pity Sultan Mahmud on his throne."

"Here with a loaf of bread beneath the bough,
A flask of Wine, a Book of Verse—and Thou
Beside me singing in the Wilderness—
And Wilderness is Paradise enow."

Omar stood erect; he never grovelled to the Sultan or pandered to the prejudices of the ignorant. He loved liberty and fought for it with every gift nature endowed him with. He was a lover of nature, and under the witchery of his genius we seem across centuries of time and thousands of miles of space the aroma from the gardens he sang of. In fancy we see the roses, the flame of the tulips, the sparkling Persian wine; we look into the eyes and wind our fingers in the tresses of the beloved. Through Omar our enjoyment is made more perfect, our faith in the ultimate triumph of humanity over tyranny and oppression strengthened. Omar in his day was the champion of reason against a corrupt Church and special privilege. Omar laughed at the Sultan, mocked the priests, and in his contests with them proved himself the sublimest poet who ever swept the lyre under the Mohammedan crescent.

A rebel's library would be incomplete without a copy of Omar Khayyam's "Rubaiyat."

The Strength and Power of Socialism.

On the ground of the class struggle we are invincible; if we leave it we are lost because we are no longer Socialists. The strength and power of Socialism rests in the fact that we are leading a class struggle; that the laboring class is exploited and oppressed by the capitalist class, and that within capitalist society, effectual reforms that would put an end to class exploitation, are impossible.

—Wilhelm Liebknecht.

Every new subscriber you get for "The International Socialist" is a blow struck at Capitalism.

The Uselessness of Industrial Unionism.

In his criticism of a previous article of mine, Comrade Sutherland professes to be unpleasantly surprised to find that any Socialist should back up industrial union methods, and advocate shorter hours of work. He contends that the main objective of the Socialist movement should be the capture of the political machinery and of the Government. I happen to differ, and think that if we captured the political machinery and the Government, leaving the industrial organisation as it is, the capture of the Government would simply mean a change in the social structure.

I can easily understand that it is difficult for Comrade Sutherland to give up his faith in the all-sufficiency of political organisation and political methods, having grown up at a time when the hopes of the working class for emancipation from economic and intellectual bondage through politically wrought reconstruction were at their inception.

But past experience should have taught us that something more is needed than the superficial and inadequate possession of the political machinery of the country. Industrial unionism furnishes the supplement to political action, and the aims of both the Socialist Party and the I.W.W. are ultimately identical. But we cannot afford to wait for something which may happen in the hazy future, when we may long ago have passed to the far beyond. In the meantime, we shall have to adopt certain tactics. I think the best tactics we can adopt is to back up industrial unionism for the purpose of pursuing a vigorous industrial warfare as a prelude to the social revolution.

Comrade Sutherland deprecates the arguments for shorter hours as part of working class strategy, and advances the very old and very much irrelevant theory that the move would be met by improvement in machinery. It is a part of our intention to have improved machinery, and, at the same time, better conditions. Suppose labor had gained nothing by the reduction of the working day from 8 to 12 hours a day, except the gain of more leisure time; would the extra 4 hours leisure a day not in themselves be a substantial gain? Have we not gained an extra 24 hours a week in which we can improve ourselves mentally and physically, if we care to? And is it not a fact that the intellectual uplifting of the working class must precede economic emancipation?

If we work shorter hours there will not be so great a difference between the wealth created and the wealth needed for the subsistence of the working class. Consequently, there will be less total surplus value, and either the percentage of profits of capitalists will be smaller, or a smaller number of idle parasites can exist.

I have attempted to defend the main doctrine laid down in the article criticised, namely, that by limiting the supply of labor there will be a keener demand for it, and the working class will, on the whole, be able to obtain better terms under these conditions than it would under conditions of over supply and wholesale unemployment. Whether the Socialist Party will devote its energies in the direction of guiding the industrial class in the solution of such practical problems on the industrial field, or whether it will limit itself to the more remote and academic social philosophy, will be for its members, individually and collectively, to consider.

H. CHRISTOPHERSON.

THE ALLIES AND THE GREEK SOCIALIST PARTY.

The Greek Socialist Party has published a Manifesto supporting the policy of M. Venizelos and exhorting the electors to abstain from the elections of Dec. 6 (19).

The neutrality of Greece, says the Manifesto, has never been a sound policy. It is now absolutely unrealisable. The May elections had proclaimed intervention on the side of the Allies. Now the people are invited to declare if Greece is to join its hereditary enemies, Austria, Turkey and Bulgaria against its best friends, England and France.

The Manifesto affirms that the Kaiser is the great enemy of the working classes of Europe, the author of the present war, and the contriver of the Greek overthrow (debacle) of 1897. All that Greece possesses it owes to the Powers of the Entente, while she can expect nothing from the others in the future, save oppression. Is there a Greek who can remain indifferent when one cites the names of Shelley, Byron, Milton, Codrington, Gladstone, Victor Hugo, Lamartine, Michelot, Maison, Favier, de Rigny, Pouskin, Heyden, Garibaldi, Tarella, and so many others without whose aid the struggles of Hellenism would have remained sterile?

The Manifesto of the Greek Socialist Party ends with a vigorous protest against the Socialists of the Reichstag and regards the defeat of Germans as in the interest of the German peoples themselves.

Acid Drops.

(By J. W. Roche.)

"The use of entertainment in war," is the title of an article in the February number of Melbourne "Life." According to parsons politicians and other high and noble patriots, war itself is entertainment—enough for anybody. Fancy having one's entrails tangled up with the landscape for the glory of God and the King! Truly a noble entertainment!

This entertainment business is a cunning dodge on the part of the plutocrats. It keeps the soldiers wounded and otherwise from pondering over the nerve shattering shriek of shells, the thunder of huge guns and showers of disintegrated humanity, dirt, disease and other horrors of war. Pondering over these things might cause them to think, and that would never do, Selah!

The head plutocrats in the old country say that the Australian Labor Party has "made good." Quite so. It has made the shackles good and strong that binds the working slaves to their masters, and the same plutocrat gang want conscription to make the fetters still stronger. And the Labor Party is with them rump and stump, nad everything is "good" for the most blood-thirsty set of pirates the world has ever seen—the capitalist class.

Andy Fisher, Australia's brand new High Conditioner, has gone in for verbal spread-eagles at a great rate in the old country. How the carrion birds of capitalism are flapping their greasy wings over this new fledged vulture from the Antipodes!

A clerical gent by the name of Roche (no relation, mind) has been fiercely attacking those unfortunates known as "women of the streets" lately. He described them in a Christlike way as "human monsters," etc. This ignorant and fanatical cleric has never attempted to denounce the "human monsters" who draw rent from the slums where these poor unfortunate victims of capitalism live—or exist. Of course not. Probably some of them sat in the front pew while he delivered himself of this bit of priestly venom. The black-coated birds of "pray" who represent this man's church has done more to encourage prostitution and general degeneracy than any other form of superstition that has ever cursed this old mud ball. I am prepared to stake my head that 65 per cent. of these unfortunates were brought up in the church that the man Roche lives on.

There is only one cure for prostitution and that is—Socialism.

Mary had a little lamb,
Which grew into a sheep.
And off he went to Europe,
To have a little sleep.

THE POLITICIAN SPIDER.

"Will you walk into my parlor,"
Said the Spider to the Fly,
"Yes, I will, sir," said the bonhead
With a weak and vacant eye.
Then the Spider sprang upon him,
And sucked his lips blood dry,
For he was a silly bonhead,
And was anything but fly."

Broken Hill Strike.

The miners' strike on the Barrier being over, we are in a better position to see what the struggle was about. While the strike was on the men were denounced as traitors to the Empire, men who were helping the Germans to slaughter Australians by restricting the output of munitions and metals. The capitalist press was specially loud in denunciation, and as skilful as it was unscrupulous in misrepresenting the men's position. Now, however, the same papers are permitting part of the truth to be known, and on February 18 Sydney "Sun" led the way with some news headed, "Prosperous Broken Hill. South Company's Big Profit." The "Sun" said:

"Investors in Barrier stocks will be able to appreciate how favorable was the last half of 1915 for the producing companies by the figures of the Broken Hill South Company covering that term. The range of metal prices and the increase of the output to a figure approaching normal capacity were together responsible for a net profit of £183,869, exclusive of depreciation, the increase being £33,500 for the six months, and £103,869 compared with the corresponding figures shown twelve months ago."

"The appropriation for income tax was £20,000 as against £7862. Dividends were £90,000, as compared with £30,000 for the first half of the year, and nothing for the corresponding half of 1914."

"A more satisfactory position is also apparent in regard to the surplus of liquid assets, which shows an increase of £64,895. In arriving at the total no notice has been taken of the shares in the smelter concern and the Barrier Munitions Company, and 6 per cent. debentures outstanding. Cash on deposit and in hand now amounts to £100,673, whereas six months previously there was an overdraft of £11,661. The altera-

A.S.P. News & Notes.

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LUKE JONES.

General Secretary.

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE.

Next meeting of the C.E. will be held on Sat. March 4.

LUKE JONES,
Gen. Sec.

SYDNEY BRANCH.

We can again report good rallies during the week. Last Sunday's meetings were particularly successful. Certain accusations have been made against our Party by the Australian yellow press, which at any time is for sale to the section of capitalists who will pay most for the use of their columns. Our speakers absolutely repudiated the insinuations, and proved that the falsehood is spread by the enemies of the working class.

A demonstration was held in the Domain in favor of Comrade J. R. Wilson's defence. A large crowd listened to the speakers.

In the evening, G. Slade gave an interesting lecture in the Hall. His subject was "Government of Modern Society." Interesting questions and discussion followed.

People in sympathy with the movement may join by coming along to the Hall, 369 Pitt-st., any Thursday or Sunday at 8 p.m., when the Secretary will be present.

Next Sunday, Mr. Eldridge will lecture in the Hall. To those who have heard him before no introduction is necessary. They will realise in Mr. Eldridge an intelligent speaker with advanced and unbiased ideas. But those who have not heard him before should see that they do not miss the opportunity.

The Branch runs a speakers' class every Monday at 8 p.m.

FIXTURES.

Sunday, Feb. 27.—Domain. Chairman, McCormick. Speakers, Rosenthal, Wyatt Jones, Luke Jones.

Park-st.—Chairman, A. Rees. Speakers, Rennell, Highfield.

Don't forget Warner's benefit on March 1.

H. CHRISTOPHERSON,
Secretary.

Sunday Evening Lectures.

SOCIALIST HALL, SYDNEY,
369 Pitt-street.

A Lecture will be delivered every Sunday, 8 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 27.—Mr. J. C. Eldridge: "The Dawn of International Governance, its Problems and Possibilities."

BRISBANE.

Thomas Sergeeff, a Russian exile, was the lecturer last Sunday evening at the Hardgrave Hall. His subject was the "Crisis of Socialism." He told at the outset of the development of the first "International," the great work it performed, and how it passed away because it was outgrown by the movement itself. Touching on the second "International," he said that it too was dead, but, unlike the first it had come to its end ingloriously. He clearly showed how the second "International," long before the war, had within itself the germs of its own destruction. To prove this, he cited the Stuttgart Conference of 1907, and told how, in a discussion regarding the colonial policy of European Powers, the Socialist representatives of England, Germany, France and Belgium voted in favor of the colonial policy of their respective countries, although such was to be carried out in a modified form. This policy led to war, and, as a consequence, it was no surprise to intelligent followers of the Socialist movement that the "International" should break as soon as war was declared. Economically, it was necessary for these countries to found colonies in order to procure raw materials and to sell their finished products. This economic necessity was reflected in the attitude of the revisionists, and at the Stuttgart Conference, this section clashed with

tion is explained by the reduction in the quantity of unrealised products from £222,000 to £47,359, though there is also a ready concentrates suspense account of £49,619 in the present balance sheet. Sundry debtors on the other hand, show an increase from £88,378 to £184,965, but the directors point out that this has since been received.

Unions which scabbed on the strikers and fought with the masters, should have the above facts well rubbed into their ivory nuts

the true Internationalists. The third "Internationalist" will be international in name and action. The units of the third "International" already existed in Italy, Russia, Switzerland and Bulgaria.

In Germany, France and England a split had taken place in the Socialist movement and after the war we shall see the Internationalists linking up with those of other countries. The more aggressive imperialist policy of the various national governments, dictated by the competing national financial groups, will cause the workers of the warring nations to link up internationally for the purpose of ending the vast struggle. The elimination of war will be consummated by world-wide Socialism.

Our liberty-loving Mr. Pearce has suppressed the Russian paper. However, the Russian comrades are not to be outdone and developments are expected.

The two Broken Hill delegates who visited Brisbane last week did not get much financial assistance, but the Industrial Council passed a few splendid resolutions. The Branch gave its Saturday night meeting to the delegates and a fair sum was collected to aid the miners.

Yours anticipating.

GEE BEE.

HELP WANTED.

Queensland and other comrades will be sorry to learn of the severe illness of comrade Jack Read, of Brisbane branch. Comrade Read is laid up in Brisbane Hospital with typhoid fever, and it will be several weeks before he can get about again. Meanwhile, Mrs. Read and family are hard pressed through the temporary loss of their breadwinner. Moreover, another child is expected shortly, so that Mrs. Read is badly in need of assistance. Any comrades or friends who can help might send a donation to Ern. Fredlien, Secy, Brisbane Branch, Box 10, P.O., Stanley-st., South Brisbane, Q.

MELBOURNE.

Comrade H. Wood has gone into the country for a few weeks, so we are without his efficient services as a speaker. The branch is in need of more speakers, especially for outdoor meetings and the lecture platform, and it is to be hoped that a much-needed addition to the list will be forthcoming shortly. At the present time, Socialist outdoor propaganda is urgently needed in Melbourne, even though increasing prices in the cost of living are causing the anti-Socialists to wonder why, and feel rebellious. A few more Yarra Bank Socialist speakers would be able to spread the gospel easily, evenly, and effectively.

On the 13th inst., Comrades Jeffrey, O'Shannessy and N. Anderson were the platform speakers at our Hall, and their subject the "General Movement of Socialism."

Comrade Anderson said: "To-day the world's workers were dissatisfied with present industrial conditions, bad foods and all the evils suffered by wage earners. To remove all these requires a complete change in social conditions. To-day the struggle of the workers is to have portion of what they make, but do not own. The time when they will not be able to earn their bread seems a hellish nightmare under capitalism. Private ownership of the means of production, and the control of industry causes all the misery of the working class."

Comrade Jeffreys spoke on the evils of capitalism and the waste of human energy under this system. By shortening the hours of labor the wage slaves would have more time to read and to think; but there are men at present working 15 hours a day, docile slaves who think the worker demanding 6 hours a lunatic.

It was waste of human energy to produce munitions, battleships, etc., but if ships were built in order that the workers might travel in them to see the world, that would be useful work. Much food is wasted under the profit system, yet thousands of workers are starving because they lack the means to purchase from the class who own and control the food supply.

Tons of tea, sugar, rice, etc., are wasted in holds of ships and in transport waggons, yet it is a crime for the workers to take any of these commodities because they are privately owned. This year 260,000 cases of fruit have been cut out of a foreign market, yet the workers have to pay a big price for local fruit.

Comrade O'Shannessy dealt briefly with the class struggle and showed how the worker is robbed at the point of production and not in the markets. If we specialise in economics, speakers can teach the majority of workers where and why the present system is wrong. The Socialist movement does not stand for peace, but war against capitalism and not against international workers. Belief in the class struggle means disbelief in politicians claiming to represent both parties.

On March 18th we are holding a social evening to commemorate the anniversary

of the Paris Commune. A speaker will deliver a short address, suitable to the occasion, followed by a concert and dance. As this is also the anniversary of our Branch, special interest attaches to the evening, and a big attendance is expected.

J. M., Press Correspondent.

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Sunday: Chair, W. Gays. Speakers, F. Hancock, A. Kilburn.

RAY EVERITT,
Secretary.

AUBURN BRANCH.

The above branch meets every Monday night at comrade Jenkin's residence, Kurradah Road, Auburn.

Those who desire to join the branch and help in forwarding the Socialist cause should hand in their names to the branch secretary.

A. SCHOFIELD, Sec.
25 St. Helliers Road, Auburn.

TWO COMRADES DROWNED.

We regret having to announce the untimely death of comrades Emil Bomholtz and Holgar Henriksen, who were drowned at Camden Haven River a few days ago through the wreck of their small vessel, "The Sea Bird." The two comrades were staunch Socialists, and good friends of this paper. We sympathise with their bereaved relatives in their sad loss.

MARX ON PALLIATIVES.

"At the time and quite apart from the general servitude involved in the wages system, the working class ought not to exaggerate to themselves the ultimate working of those everyday struggles. They ought not to forget that they are fighting with effects, but not with the cause of these effects; and they are applying palliatives, not curing the malady. They ought, therefore, not to be exclusively absorbed in these unavoidable guerrilla fights incessantly springing up from the ever increasing encroachments of capital or changes of the market. They ought to understand that, with all the miseries it imposes on them, the present system simultaneously engenders the material conditions and social reforms necessary for an economic reconstruction of society. Instead of the conservative motto: 'A fair day's work for a fair day's wage,' they ought to inscribe on their banners the revolutionary watchword: 'Abolish the wages system.'"
Karl Marx in 1865.

Books and Pamphlets on Sale and to Arrive.

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 - Landmarks of Scientific Socialism (Anti-Duehring). Contains the most important portions of the larger work from which Socialism, Utopian and Scientific was taken (Engels) 4s.
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 - Introduction to Socialism. Excellent for beginners, 64 pages (Richardson) 3d.
 - Unionism and Socialism (Eugene V. Debs) 6d.
 - Industrial Socialism. Explains why the Socialist Party stands for economic as well as political action (Haywood and Bohn) 6d.
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- Socialism, What It Is and What It Seeks to Accomplish. (Wilhelm) Liebknecht 6d.
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- Memoirs of Karl Marx. Delightful personal recollections (Liebknecht) 2s.
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